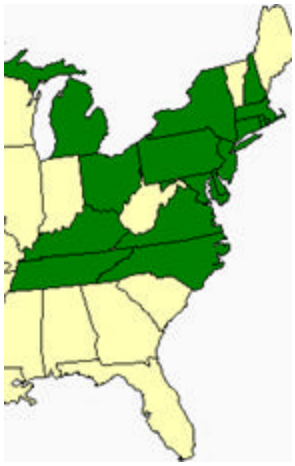
Porcelainberry

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Maxim.) Trautv.

DESCRIPTION: Porcelainberry is a deciduous, woody, perennial vine of the grape family, Vitaceae. It is related to the North American raccoon-grape and peppervine, and is sometimes referred to as Amur peppervine or porcelain ampelopsis. The simple, heart-shaped leaves of porcelainberry are dark green with coarsely toothed edges, and are shiny underneath with delicate hairs along the veins. The leaves vary from slightly 3-5 lobed to deeply dissected, the latter being distinctively recognizable. The leaves are arranged alternately on vines that grow to heights of 15 to 20 feet. The plant climbs by tendrils that grow opposite the leaves on the stem. Small, greenish-white flowers appear in clusters. The berries, about 1/4-inch in diameter, range in color from white to yellow, to pastel shades of green, lilac and amethyst purple, to turquoise and sky blue. All colors of the berry are often found growing on the same plant at the same time.



ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Porcelainberry is a vigorous vine which is slow to establish but grows and spreads quickly in open areas of the urban landscape. The vine quickly overwhelms and destroys native vegetation by shading out smaller plants and out competing native vegetation for water and nutrients.

DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES: New England to North Carolina and west to Michigan.

HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES: Porcelainberry grows well in most soils, especially in pond margins, stream banks, thickets, and waste places, where there is full sunlight to partial shade, and where it is not permanently wet. Like its relative the grape, porcelainberry appears to be less tolerant of heavily shaded areas, such as that found in mature forest.

BIOLOGY & SPREAD: The colorful berries (carrying 2-4 seeds each) attract birds and other small animals that eat the berries and disperse the seeds in their droppings. Because the plant is often found growing in riparian areas downstream from established plant colonies, it is thought that the seeds may also be dispersed in stream water.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT APPROACHES: Since the vines can grow as long as 15 ft. in a single growing season, repeated applications in the same growing season and in subsequent years may be necessary to fully eradicate the plant.

- **Manual-** pull up by hand before fruiting to prevent spread of seeds, or cut aboveground vines and pull from trees to allow the trees to recover and repeat as needed.
- **Chemical-** The herbicides triclopyr (e.g., Garlon 3a and Garlon 4) and glyphosate (Roundup and Rodeo) have been used with varying success to battle infestations of porcelainberry.

References: www.nps.gov/plants/alien